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NSC BRIEFING 29 January 1958

GUATEMALA

1. The danger of post-election violence has been reduced, at least for the moment, by an agreement signed on 27 January between rightist Valderas and Cruz of the center.

[redacted]

25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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III. The agreement was motivated by the realization that it was perhaps the only way to avoid political violence.

A. Ydigoras won a clear plurality with 40% of the votes compared to Cruz' 30%. (Leftist Mendez was a close third with 29%.)

B. And Ydigoras partisans, especially strong in Guatemala City, would use force to counter any decision for Cruz.

C. But, Ydigoras needs the support of Cruz' followers in congress.

D. Both want to work together against the leftists.

IV. The agreement could hit a snag, in which case serious trouble might still develop.

V. The Leftist Revolutionary Party (PR) emerged as an important political force when it polled over a quarter of the votes.

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A. Its strength indicates continued popular attraction to the socialist-nationalist goals of the 1944 revolution.

B. A serious problem could develop in that, while PR leaders are avowedly anti-Communist, the party is infiltrated in the lower echelons.

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